



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

October 18, 2021

Dear Senate Colleagues:

We urge you to pass the Freedom to Vote Act to address the partisanship and rancor that is creating dangerous levels of instability in American society today.

Partisan gerrymandering, by definition, breeds partisanship and contributes to the hyperpolarization that has become a tragic hallmark of our politics. Caught in this crossfire, many Americans are convinced that politicians look out for themselves first and their constituents second. The Freedom to Vote Act takes direct aim at gerrymandering with a set of baseline standards that ensure neither party can manipulate the electorate for its own gain. Under the bill, the process of drawing congressional districts will be conducted fairly and with respect for voters and communities. That means less partisanship and less polarization. Fair redistricting will help in the broad effort to restore confidence in our democratic institutions and encourage Americans of all political stripes to find common ground.

Time is of the essence. In our states, sadly, legislators are racing to draw unfair maps without regard to the message it sends to the public. That's wrong and will only increase the cynicism so many Americans feel when they look at the state of our politics. By establishing objective criteria for redistricting, the Freedom to Vote Act can reassure our constituents that their interests are paramount and that we are working to repair the partisan divide, not deepen it.

Passage of the Freedom to Vote Act is also critical to safeguarding every American's sacred right to vote. Current efforts at the state level to diminish access to the ballot box or overturn valid election results are sowing discord in a myriad of different ways that undermine stability in every sector of our society. The opportunity and desire of citizens to engage in constructive dialogue – to share different points of view while working toward compromise – is eroded when the basic building blocks of our democracy come under attack. That leads to distrust and recrimination in the political town square. Public discourse becomes hard-edged and our society begins to break down. If one's vote is one's voice, then we must protect access to the ballot box in order to secure dignity and respect for every individual American.

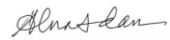
The attack on the freedom to vote has also become a threat to stability within the business community. In many of our states, major employers and event organizers have felt compelled on their own, or in response to public pressure, to take a stand on the importance of voting access. They are right to do so, but when that leads to major cancellations or relocations, or invites boycotts or other collective action from those who are pushing voter suppression, it is disruptive to state and local economies. Small businesses and workers on Main Street suffer the cascading effect of this disruption. Put simply, voter suppression is bad for business. The Freedom to Vote Act would institute national standards for voting that would restore public confidence in our democratic institutions and the operational integrity of our system of government. That translates into certainty, predictability and stability in the private sector.

America is strongest when our democratic institutions are strong, when they reflect and project the confidence of our people. The Freedom to Vote Act can fortify our democracy and bring Americans of all political stripes back into the town square, where the vitality of our ideas and experiences can be shared with respect, dynamism and hope for the future.

Sincerely,



Colin Allred
Member of Congress



Alma Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr
Member of Congress



Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

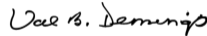
/s
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

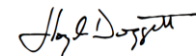


Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress

/s
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress

/s

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress